



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC APPROVES CALLING OPTION FOR THE EXCHANGES OF WASHINGTON, UNION, BEAUFORT AND ST. CLAIR

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved an agreement which will provide an expanded calling plan for four Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. d/b/a AT&T Missouri (AT&T Missouri) exchanges located outside the St. Louis metropolitan area. Under the agreement, the AT&T Missouri exchanges of Beaufort, St. Clair, Union and Washington will be added to Tier 5 of the current St. Louis Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) plan.

Under the MCA plan, subscribing customers in an MCA exchange can have certain two-way (outgoing and incoming) toll-free calling benefits. Subscribers would pay a flat monthly rate for the MCA service. Under the agreement, MCA would be an optional service in these exchanges and subscribers would pay an additional \$32.50 a month (residential) and \$70.70 a month (business) for the service. The calling plan is expected to be implemented by October 30, 2006.

The agreement notes that customers choosing to subscribe to MCA service will need to change their telephone number to an MCA-designated number as is the case with other MCA exchanges in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

“The record reflects that while an optional MCA plan may not be the best choice for some customers, it is in the public interest to have the option available,” the Commission’s order said. “Customers who choose to subscribe will benefit from a greatly increased calling scope and two-way calling from certain MCA tiers and other MCA subscribers.”

The agreement approved by the Commission was filed by AT&T Missouri, the Office of the Public Counsel and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

The Commission recommends that customers carefully evaluate their calling patterns before choosing any type of plan. There are numerous offerings available for both residential and business customers. Customers are encouraged to contact providers to get information on what various plans cover and the cost of each before subscribing to any plan.

Resources for comparing calling plans and links to consumer information websites can be found at the Commission’s website, <http://www.psc.mo.gov/consumer-information.asp>, as well as the website for the Office of the Public Counsel, <http://www.mo-opc.org/telephone/longdist.htm>